

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing a plurality of bi-directional services that are transmitted over a cable television network, comprising:
 - presenting a program guide to at least one subscriber;
 - populating the program guide with at least one bi-directional services with availability information, wherein the at least one bi-directional service is maintained in and periodically updated in the program guide by a bi-directional services database, wherein the bi-directional services database is updated by at least one remote subscriber;
 - receiving a request for ~~an available~~ a bi-directional service displayed in the program guide;
 - if the requested bi-directional service is available, rendering the ~~available~~ bi-directional service;
 - and
 - updating the bi-directional services database to reflect that the ~~available rendered~~ bi-directional service is one of available or unavailable ~~requested has been rendered~~.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a request for further information regarding the requested bi-directional service.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of querying the bi-directional services database to ensure the requested bi-directional service is available ~~wherein receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service comprises a bi-directional communication session concurrently between a content provider and a plurality of subscribers.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service comprises a bi-directional communication session between the subscriber and at least one other subscriber associated with the requested bi-directional service.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a second request for an available bi-directional service displayed in the program guide;
 - transmitting the bi-directional service; and
 - updating the availability information in the bi-directional services database.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein if a displayed bi-directional service is not available, receiving a request for future consumption of the requested bi-directional service; and
providing notification when the bi-directional service is available.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the notification of the previously unavailable bi-directional service comprises displaying a notice on a currently displayed program.

8 - 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of continuously updating the bi-directional services in the program guide to display availability information for each of the plurality of bi-directional services.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for accessing a plurality of bi-directional services over a cable television network comprising:

means for receiving availability information from at least one remote subscriber related to a plurality of bi-directional services;

means for populating a bi-directional services database with the availability information related to a the plurality of bi-directional services;

means for presenting a program guide to a plurality of subscribers, wherein the program guide displays the plurality of bi-directional services along with the availability information;

means for receiving a request from at least one of the plurality of subscribers for at least one available bi-directional service displayed in the program guide;

means for enabling a bi-directional communication session between at least one of the plurality of subscribers and a remote subscriber based on the requested bi-directional service;

means for rendering the available bi-directional service;

means for generating an updated bi-directional services database to reflect that the requested at least one bi-directional service has been rendered; and

means for retransmitting the program guide including the updated bi-directional services to the plurality of subscribers.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the updated bi-directional services database is updated by information received from the at least one remote subscriber transmitting the program guide including the updated bi-directional services occurs on a scheduled basis.

15-31. (Canceled)